

# **Environment and Energy Committee**

**Co-Chairs—Marilyn C. Bracken, Ph.D. and Marea Hatziolos Grant, Ph.D.  
Board Liaison- Lawrence Heilman, Ph.D.**

## **Mission Statement**

The Chevy Chase Village Environment and Energy Committee was established to promote a healthier environment for all Village residents and reduce the overall carbon footprint of the Village. Towards this end, the Committee develops and sponsors voluntary programs to encourage conservation and enhancement of the Village's natural resources and promotes environmental friendly policies and practices. The Committee will:

1. Inform Village residents in best practices in environment and energy
2. Use the Village Hall to showcase good practices in environmental management and energy conservation
3. Work with the other Village Committees to incorporate sound environmental and energy practices where appropriate.

## **Committee Members**

Valery Amiel  
Mary Candon  
Oliver Davidson  
Susie Eig  
John Elliott  
Katherine Hayes  
Amanda Jacobs

Alice Kinter  
Mary (Polly) Lawrence  
Jonathan Lyons  
Grace Spring  
Betsy Stephens  
Ralph Stephens  
Craig Van Note

## **How we will operate**

- 1 Regularly scheduled meetings with an agenda
2. Minutes of discussion and action items
3. Minutes will be submitted to the Board and available on the Web Site
4. Meetings will be announced so others can participate
5. Plan to work closely with other committees and assign liaisons
6. Where appropriate, work with counterpart committees in neighboring communities
7. At the request of the Board, review programs and policies of the Village to ensure no harm to the environment

## **Major Areas of Interest**

Increasing Tree Cover as a Village Asset  
Climate Control and Energy Alternatives  
Noise Control  
Reducing Solid and Hazardous Waste  
Renewable Energy (solar and geothermal)  
Energy Efficient Practices and Energy Audits

Vision Statement of the Environment and Energy Committee  
Trees as Valuable Village Assets, Vital to Achieving the E&E Vision for Chevy Chase Village

The Environment and Energy Committee's overarching goal is to reduce the overall carbon footprint of Chevy Chase Village residents, and its operations, so that the Village becomes carbon neutral with respect to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2015. To achieve this ambitious target, Village households and Village Management will need to adopt greener practices (including energy consumption and waste management) that reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, as well as those that increase the uptake of CO<sub>2</sub> and the conservation of water. This vision statement is part of the Committee's overall action plan. Trees are a vital element in this vision.

The Environment and Energy (E&E) Committee recognizes that the Village's tree cover—its urban forest—is a major mitigating factor in the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> that the Village emits into the atmosphere. This is because the Village's trees are the sole physical assets within the Village's boundaries that actually capture and store CO<sub>2</sub>.

Because of this, the E&E Committee plans to monitor closely how the Village and its residents care for the tree cover. The goal for the Village should be to have more trees at the end of each year than at the beginning. The Committee would develop a mechanism for measuring the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> that the current tree cover captures *per annum* and then monitor changes in this amount over time as a result of active tree planting, and reduction in tree loss, to assess progress toward increasing this amount. To support this objective, the E&E Committee would take on the task of reviewing, along with the Village arborist, every project that involves removing a living tree. In the event that taking down a tree cannot be avoided, i.e., because it is diseased or poses a risk to residents or the public, the Committee would make recommendations for reforestation that would compensate for the loss of the carbon capturing capacity of the tree and other services provided by the tree(s) taken down.

The Environment and Energy Committee also recognizes that trees that are native to the Eastern Forest are the basic building blocks for a healthy ecosystem in the Village. Native trees, for example, will capture and process more rainwater runoff than will most hybrids or introduced species; they provide vital habitat and food to a myriad of living things—including butterflies, migratory and resident songbirds, woodpeckers and other avian species, small mammals and invertebrates that keep pests under control. They provide welcome shade in the summer, a palette of color in the fall and windbreaks in the winter. In fact, the mature canopy of trees that contributes to the unique character of Chevy Chase Village was cited in the last household survey as one of the main reasons people want to live in the Village.

For all these reasons, the E&E Committee will seek to promote the planting of native trees wherever feasible—in residents' gardens, along the roadways, in Village Greens—to enhance the quality of life in the Village and to bring us closer to our goal of becoming a carbon neutral community.

Marilyn C. Bracken, Ph.D. and Marea Hatzios, Ph.D.

Co-Chairs, Environment and Energy Committee